

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07051 241254Z

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JO, IQ

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING -- NOVEMBER 17 HOTEL RAID

SUMMARY: KING HUSSEIN SAYS IRAQI EMBASSY APPARENTLY PLAYED
ROLE IN TERRORIST RAID ON HOTEL IN AMMAN --E.G., IRAQI
BANKERS' DELEGATION WAS PULLED OUT OF HOTEL BY EMBASSY ON
MORNING OF ATTACK (SO DID ALGERIAN BANKERS' DELEGATION),
AND IRAQI EMBASSY SUSPENDED TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ON DAY
OF RAID. NO IRAQI RETALIATION HAS FOLLOWED GOJ'S EXPULSION
OF FOUR OFFICIAL IRAQIS. KING IS CONFIDENT IRAQI GOVERN-
MENT KNEW OF TERRORISTS TRAINING. HE BELIEVES JORDAN
INCLUDED IN FUTURE TARGETS OF TERRORIST STILL BEING TRAINED
IN IRAQ AND OF JAPANESE RED ARMY. JORDAN WILL STEP UP
INTELLIGENCE PENETRATION OF IRAQ AND IS TIGHTENING UP LOCAL
SECURITY. KING WANTS MORE ANTI-TERRORIST EQUIPMENT AND
LIKELY TO APPROACH US ON THIS IN FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. KING RAISED WITH ME DURING NOVEMBER 23 TALK,
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPARENTLY IRAQI-SPONSORED
AMMAN INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL RAID WHICH TOOK PLACE
ON NOVEMBER 17.

2. KING SAID THAT IT NOW APPEARED THAT IRAQI EMBASSY
HAD PLAYED A ROLE IN THE RAID. AN IRAQI BANKERS'
DELEGATION HAD BEEN PULLED OUT OF THE HOTEL ON THE
MORNING THE TERRORISTS ATTACKED BY AN IRAQI EMBASSY
OFFICIAL. ROUGHLY THE SAME THING HAD HAPPENED ALSO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 07051 241254Z

WITH AN ALGERIAN BANKERS DELEGATION. (ONE EGYPTIAN

BANKER DIED THIS WEEK AS A RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN THE RAID). FURTHER, THE IRAQI EMBASSY HAD CUT OFF ALL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION ON THE DAY OF THE RAID. FOUR OFFICIAL IRAQIS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED. THE IRAQI REACTION WAS INTERESTING THE KING SAID, -- SEVERAL MORE HAVE BEEN SENT IN. THUS FAR NO RETALIATION HAS TAKEN PLACE AGAINST JORDANIANS IN IRAQ.

3. THE KING SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT KNEW OF THE TRAINING CAMP AND THAT SOME SECTOR OF THAT GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE TARGETS AND TARGET AREAS. THE TERRORIST NOW BEING HELD, THE KING SAID, HAD A LOW IQ AND WAS TOLD THE TARGET WOULD BE IN THE WEST BANK UP UNTIL THE MORNING OF THE RAID.

4. THE KING SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT THE RAIDS WOULD CONTINUE IN JORDAN. MORE PEOPLE WERE BEING TRAINED THE SURVIVING TERRORIST HAD MENTIONED IRANIANS AS BEING IN TRAINING WITH HIM. THE KING THINKS THAT ALL KINDS OF TARGETS -- HOTELS, EMBASSIES, AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS AND SO FORTH -- CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FOR THE FUTURE. KING IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED THAT THE JAPANESE RED ARMY HAS TARGETTED JORDAN AND SYRIA IN RETALIATION FOR JORDAN'S HAVING ARRESTED TWO MEMBERS OF THE RED ARMY HERE LAST MONTH.

5. WHEN I SAW HIM THE KING SAID HE HAD JUST FINISHED A LONG REVIEW OF THE INCIDENT WITH ALL OF HIS SECURITY OFFICIALS. JORDAN HAD NOT MADE IRAQ A HIGH PRIORITY INTELLIGENCE PENETRATION TARGET IN THE PAST. HOW IT WOULD HAVE TO DO SO. MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE RAID HAD CURRENT, VALID JORDANIAN PASSPORTS THEY HAD BEEN RECRUITED IN PLACES LIKE PAKISTAN OR KUWAIT. HE WOULD TRY TO TIGHTEN UP ON GETTING INFORMATION FROM THOSE AREAS. THE INCIDENT HAD HAD ONE GOOD SIDE EFFECT -- HIS OWN PEOPLE HAD BEEN SHOCKED INTO TIGHTENING UP LOCAL SECURITY. KING DID NOT SAY SO, BUT HAVE IMPRESSION FROM THIS AND EARLIER TALKS THAT FURTHER SHAKE UP PLANNED FOR HIS SECURITY FORCES. KING TOLD ME
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 07051 241254Z

HE HAS HIS OWN POPLE WORKING UP WORST CASE SCENARIOS AND THEN DEVELOPING PLANS TO MEET THEM.

6. KING SAID ALSO HE HAD A NEED FOR MORE EQUIPMENT. HE MENTIONED A NUMBER OF MORE OR LESS STANDARD ANTI-TERRORISM DEVICES SUCH AS X-RAY AND SNIFFERS. HE ALSO SAID HE BADLY NEEDED AN ARMED HELICOPTER POTENTIAL FOR USE IN LANDING SPECIAL FORCES

AND PATROLLING REMOTE DESERT BORDER AREAS. (HIS
PRESENT FLEET IS UNARMED AND CAN ONLY CARRY THREE OR
FOUR TROOPS IN EACH AIRCRAFT). HE ASKED ME ABOUT
COBRAS. I TOLD HIM THE PROBLEM WAS ONE PRINCIPALLY
OF FINANCES. APPARENTLY HE IS LOOKING INTO A NUMBER
OF POSSIBILITIES AND I DO NOT EXPECT WE HAVE HEARD
THE LAST WORD FROM HIM ON THIS POINT.
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